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Elementary Newsletter

Malcolm Price Laboratory School

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# Elementary Newsletter, v1n3, December 1, 1988

University of Northern Iowa, Malcolm Price Laboratory School

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# MALCOLM PRICE LABORATORY SCHOOL ELEMENTARY • NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I, ISSUE III

University of Northern Iowa

DECEMBER 1, 1988

## School Hours

Reminder: Children should not arrive at school prior to 8:15 a.m. unless there are special transportation circumstances which warrant an early arrival. The lobby will be supervised starting at 8:15 a.m. Children should come into the main lobby and find a place to sit down. Your assistance in seeing that your child leaves for school no earlier than necessary is appreciated greatly. \*

## Religion in the Curriculum??

During the holiday season, students are highly motivated to learn about celebrations such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa (an African celebration), or Epiphany (an important religious and cultural celebration in European and Latin American countries) especially if the study includes the sounds, smells and tastes of the season. While traditional celebrations such as these do present rich opportunities for learning about other cultures and peoples, one might ask, "Does the inclusion of topics such as these in the curriculum transgress the high wall of separation between church and state which the United States Constitution so clearly establishes?"

To answer that question, we need to look at the historical perspective. For a number of years, textbook publishers and curriculum specialists

have been criticized for grossly underplaying the role of religion when reporting the history of the United States and the world. While the exclusion of religion from textbooks may not be excusable, it is somewhat understandable given the social climate of the last three decades.

Throughout the sixties, seventies, and into the eighties traditional social beliefs, roles and values were regularly scrutinized and challenged. Many Americans questioned the government's role in southeast Asia. Women challenged institutionally established patterns of sexual discrimination by demanding greater autonomy in politics and the work place. Minority groups sought equal representation in government, business, and education while raising America's consciousness of an overlooked, underrepresented, multi-ethnic segment of society. Public nativity scenes and crosses were questioned along with traditional





social roles as civil libertarians challenged generations of Protestant majority rule.

While these time-honored values and roles were being redefined on the street and in the courts, classroom teachers grew increasingly uneasy about "religion in the classroom" for fear of transgressing the uncertain wall of "separation of church and state." As one elementary teacher put it, "Most classroom teachers only needed to be reprimanded once by an angry parent before they learned to avoid the topic of religion completely."

However, for over 25 years the courts have been striking down prayer and devotional Bible reading in the schools while encouraging schools to teach about religion. Thus, the issue is not whether religion should be dealt with in the schools but how. The problem confronting the school lies not with distinguishing between the sacred and the secular but rather with distinguishing between the devotional and the informational.

In drawing this distinction, Laboratory School faculty have made a commitment to a pluralistic perspective which manifests itself in a curriculum which recognized numerous cultures and traditions. Part of that recognition will be the study of religious practices or traditions which are observed by people around the globe. However, because the school obviously does not endorse a particular religious or political persuasion, units of study, school celebrations, assemblies, and programs will emphasize the informational aspects of religious observances and holiday celebrations. In addition, every effort will be made to make seasonal programs representative of a number of cultural or religious perspectives in accord with the school's multi-cultural and multi-ethnic commitment. \*



## Alumni and Friends of Price Laboratory School



For over a hundred years, the Laboratory School has served the teacher profession by providing strong instructional programs and models of excellence in the classroom. On November 28, 1988 "a sort of mini-reunion" was held at the Commons on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa to celebrate the decades of service the Laboratory School has provided the community of Cedar Falls, the state of Iowa and the nation.

For years, the school's various graduating classes have held separate reunions to mark, ten, twenty, and thirty-plus year anniversaries of high school graduation, but the Laboratory School has never enjoyed the benefits of an organized alumni and friends association. This reunion and Founder's Banquet marked the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the school. Alumni and friends came together to form a new association of support for the Laboratory School as it seeks to continue its dynamic mission and leadership role into the next century.

If as either an alumni or friend of the Laboratory School, you would like more information on this group, please do not hesitate to contact the Elementary Office at 273-2512. \*



## Focus on New Faculty: Mary Otten

There is a new face in the Physical Education Department this year. Mary Otten has joined the P.E. staff for the 1988-89 school year as elementary and secondary physical education instructor and girls basketball coach.

Mary, one of nine children in her family, was raised in Mason City where she graduated from Drake University with a double major in physical education and special education. While at Drake she played division I basketball and softball.

During the 1987-88 school year, Mary was in graduate school at UNI where she held a graduate assistant position with the women's basketball team and taught university-level activity courses. Last summer, she assisted with the East High School softball team.

We are very pleased to have Mary on the faculty this year and appreciate the many contributions she has already made to the physical education program. Welcome to the Laboratory School Mary!! \*

## Weather-related School Cancellations

Whenever it becomes necessary to cancel a day of school because of a weather emergency, this information will be broadcast over the following radio and television stations: KWLO, KFMW, KBBG, FCFI, and KWWL-TV. In these announcements, the Laboratory School will be identified as Price Lab School separately from the Cedar Falls public and parochial schools.

If, because of a weather-related emergency, it becomes necessary to dismiss school before the regularly scheduled dismissal time, parents will be notified by telephone. \*

## Cara Hankins Wins Fire Prevention Week Contest



October 9-15 marked fire prevention week across the state and nation. To highlight the importance of fire prevention, the Cedar Falls Fire Department sponsored a poster coloring contest and a school visitation program. Cara Hankins won second prize in her age group and received a skate board. Congratulations Cara!! \*



### Dates to Remember

December 22	2:00 p.m., Holiday Sing-a-long in auditorium
December 23	No school (First day of winter vacation)
January 3	School resumes at 8:30 a.m.











# PLS School Lunch Menus



## December



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			<b>Dec. 1</b> Toasted Cheese Sandwich Garden Veg. Soup Diced Peaches Brownie	<b>Dec.. 2</b> Tator-Tot Casserole Green Beans Buttered Bread Fruited Jello
<b>Dec. 5</b> Hot Dog French Fries Fresh Fruit Pudding	<b>Dec. 6</b> Beef 'n Bean Burrito Fruit Cocktail Pumpkin Bar	<b>Dec. 7</b> Tenderloin Sandwich Mixed Vegetables Diced Pears Cookie	<b>Dec. 8</b> Lasagna Texas Toast Lettuce Salad Applesauce	<b>Dec. 9</b> Hamburger Cheesy Hash-browns Peaches Bar Cookie
<b>Dec. 12</b> Chicken Sandwich Corn Pineapple Chunks Chocolate Cake	<b>Dec. 13</b> Taco Salad Corn Bread Orange Rice Krispie Bar	<b>Dec. 14</b> Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Diced Peaches Chocolate-Chip Bar	<b>Dec. 15</b> Chili Dinner Roll Cheese Stick Apple	<b>Dec. 16</b> Cheeseburger Chicken/Noodle Soup Peach Crisp
<b>Dec. 19</b> Italian Spaghetti w/meat sauce Cheese Stick Dinner Roll Diced Pears	<b>Dec. 20</b> BBQ'd Beef Sandwich French Fries Banana Pudding	<b>Dec. 21</b> Meatballs Macaroni & Cheese Buttered Bread Peas Orange Slice	<b>Dec. 22</b> Pizza Burger Vegetable Sticks Apple Christmas Cookie	<b>Dec. 23</b>
<b>Dec. 26</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>Dec. 29</b>	<b>Dec. 30</b>
<div>   <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  </div> <div>  <b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS!</b> </div>				